

*The American Baptist Historical Society
J. J. McArthur
26 Aug. '42*

MINUTES

OF THE

NINETY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

**OCHLOCKNEE PRIMITIVE
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

OF

Old Line Primitive Baptists

HELD WITH

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH

October 26th, 27th and 28th, 1918.

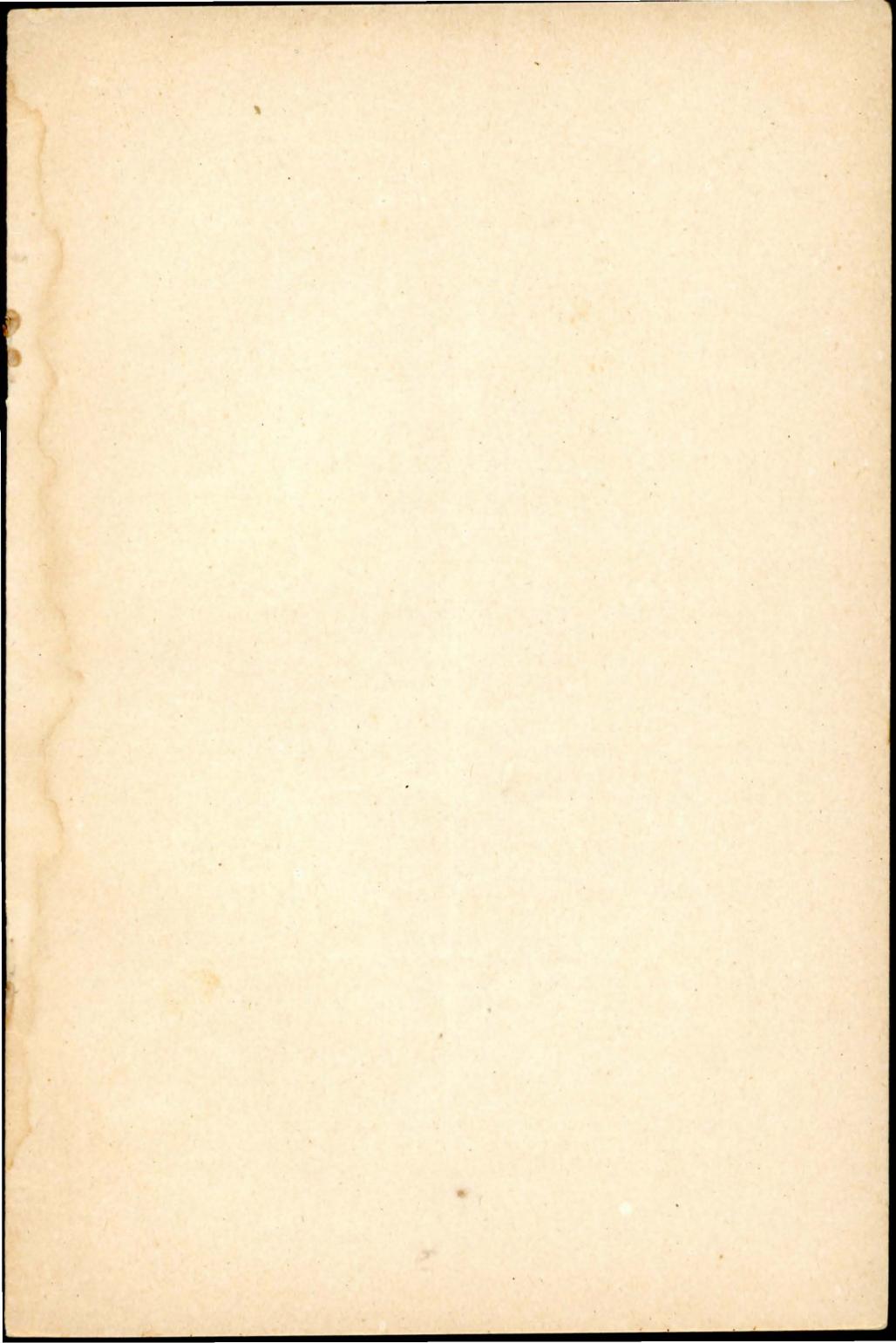
OFFICERS:

ELDER E. R. RHODEN,
Moderator.

ELDER J. W. GARDNER,
Clerk.

ELDER BAPTIST
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Proceedings of the Ochlocknee Association.

The Ninety-second Annual Session of the Ochlocknee Primitive Baptist Association convened with Pleasant Grove Church, three miles east of Moultrie, on Oct. 26th, 27th and 28th, 1918.

The introductory sermon was by Elder T. J. Davis, of the Flint River Association.

Prayer by Elder H. W. Parrish.

First. Read letters from eleven churches and minuted their state.

Second. Elected Elder E. R. Rhoden Moderator and Elder J. W. Gardner, Clerk, by acclamation.

Third. Adopted last year's minutes as course of business.

Fourth. Read the Decorum.

Fifth. Invited brethren of our faith and order to seats with us.

Sixth. Called for petitionary letters.

Seventh. Appointed committees as follows:

On Preaching and Finance—Brethern J. M. Clark, J. M. Strickland and B. B. Olive, together with the Messengers of this church.

On Business—F. M. Renfro, G. J. Chitty and H. M. Chastain, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

On Memorials—Brethern H. W. Godwin and J. H. Martin.

Eighth. Called for the correspondents of the associations and received:

From the San Pedro Association: None.

From the Pulaski Association: J. Z. Paulk and A. A. Turner.

From the Union Association: Elder H. W. Parrish, G. N. Mobley and D. J. Coulter.

From the Flint River Association: S. M. Griner.

From the Alabaha Association: None.

From the Chippala Association: None.

Ninth. Called for petitionary correspondents.

Tenth. Appointed J. W. Gardner to write corresponding letter.

On motion adjourned until Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock.

Prayer by E. Lindsey.

Monday Morning Session.

The session opened with prayer by Elder H. W. Parrish.

First. Called the roll.

Second. Read the call for correspondents.

Third. Extended invitation to visitors.

Fourth. Called for report of Business Committee and received report as follows: We have examined the minutes of the several associations and find nothing objectionable. Signed by F. M. Renfroe, G. J. Chitty and H. M. Chastian.

Fifth. Returned correspondents as follows:

To the San Pedro Association, to be held with Corinth church in Madison County, Florida, two miles South of Lee, on the S. A. L. Railway: M. M. Blanton.

To the Union Association, to be held with Olive Leaf church, four miles South of Dupont, on the A. C. L. Railway, beginning on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1919: J. H. Martin, G. J. Chitty and Elder B. C. Lewis.

To the Flint River Association, to be held with New Hope church in Grady County, Georgia, eight miles North of Cairo, on the A. C. L. Railway, beginning on Saturday before the first Sunday in November, 1918: Elders J. W. Gardner, B. C. Lewis and F. M. Renfroe, and R. L. Watson.

To the Alabaha Association, to be held with church, in Ware County, four miles South of Waycross, on the A. C. L. Railway, beginning on Friday before the first Sunday in November, 1918: B. B. Olive.

To the Pulaski Association, to be held with New Hope church, Wilcox County, two and one-half miles South of Ab-

beville, on the S. A. L. Railway, three miles East of Brown-
ing, on the Abbeville and Waycross Railway, commencing on
Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1919: Elder J.
W. Gardner and I. E. Tucker.

To the Suwanee Association, to be held with Mt. Zion
church, Bradford County, five and one-half miles East of
Guilford, on the G. S. & F. Railway, beginning on Saturday
before the fourth Sunday in September, 1919: Elder J. W.
Gardner.

Called for corresponding letters: Read and adopted.

Seventh. General meetings will be held as follows:

First District: Beginning on Friday before the first fifth
Sunday in 1919, to be held with Harmony church, one and one-
half miles East of Barwick, on the Ga. Northern Railway.

Second District: Beginning on Friday before the second
fifth Sunday in 1919, to be held with Beth-Saide church, nine
miles West of Moultrie.

Eighth. Called for circular letter: Read and adopted.

Ninth. Appointed G. W. Horne to write next circular
letter.

Tenth. Called for report on finance, and received as fol-
lows: We, the committee on finance, submit the following:
We find \$100.00 as contributions from the churches. We rec-
ommend the sum of \$45.00 be given the clerk for his services.
We recommend that 500 minutes be printed; 350 for the
churches, and 150 for the correspondents. We recommend that
\$55.00 be divided among the visiting ministers. Signed: J.
M. Clark, J. W. Strickland and B. B. Olliff.

Eleventh. Called for committee on memorials. No report.

Twelfth. On motion adjourned to meet with Harmony
church, Brooks County, one and one-half miles East of Barwick,
on the Georgia Northern Railway, beginning on Saturday be-
fore the fourth Sunday in October, 1919.

Closed with prayer by Elder B. C. Lewis.

Resolutions of Thanks.

Resolved, that we tender our heartfelt thanks to our breth-
ren and sisters of Pleasant Grove church, and friends, for their
kindness and care during our stay with them, and pray God
that they may be abundantly blessed, according to His divine
goodness and mercy.

Order of Preaching.

Saturday morning: Introductory sermon by Elder T. J. Davis, of the Flint River Association.

Saturday afternoon: By Elder J. J. Johnson, of the Flint River Association, followed by Elder S. T. Sheffield, of the Chippala Association.

Sunday morning: By Elder H. W. Parrish, of the Union Association, followed by Elder J. T. Strauder, of the Pulaski Association.

Sunday afternoon: Elder J. W. Gardner, of the Ochlocknee Association, followed by Elder E. Lindsey, of the same association.

Monday morning: By Elder B. C. Lewis, of the Ochlocknee Association, and closed by the Moderator.

Address of Ministers.

Elder D. N. Williams, Claxton, Ga.

Elder A. L. Pearce, Moultrie, Ga.

Elder E. Lindsey, Tifton, Ga.

Elder E. R. Rhoden, Moultrie, Ga.

Elder J. W. Gardner, Camilla, Ga.

Elder H. W. Godwin, Pavo, Ga.

Elder B. C. Lewis, Moultrie, Ga.

Elder L. Johnson, Moultrie, Ga.

Corresponding Letter.

We, the Ochlocknee Association, of the Old Line Primitive Baptists, now in session with Pleasant Grove church, to our sister Associations with whom we correspond—Greetings: Beloved in the Lord, through the goodness and mercy of God, we have been permitted to hold another session of our body. Our churches report peace and fellowship; our correspondence is not as full as formerly, owing somewhat to the great trials and afflictions that our nation is having to pass through, yet in the midst of trials, we feel that God has blessed our meeting with His presence, in blessing your ministers to preach Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life for which we hope, we feel thankful. The Lord permitting, our next session will be held with Harmony church, one and one-half miles East of Barwick, on the Georgia Northern Railway, when and where we

hope to meet again. Until then, farewell.

(Signed) J. W. GARDNER.

Circular Letter.

As I was appointed to write the circular letter, I will try to offer you a few lines, on the subject of a little boy. This you will find recorded in the 2nd chapter of Luke, 45th verse, as follows: "And when they found him not, they returned to Jerusalem seeking him." But, dear children of God, we often find ourselves, after we have gone so far, when we see that we can't find the Lord, till we go back to where we left him. This little boy is the same one that we are told of in the Bible, that was in the temple with the doctors, both asking and answering questions. Now we find that when his father and mother sought him, they went among their kindred, but found him not. The reason they never found him was that they had gone the wrong way. He was doing the will of the Father and we oftentimes find ourselves doing our way, and we know that the Lord teaches us that "there is a way that seemeth right unto us, but the end thereof is death." We know there is but one way. Jesus said, "I am the way." Dear children of God, if we expect to get the blessing, we have to stay in the way. Jesus has not left His people, but we have often left Him, going out on our own accord, thinking that we know better how to do than we have been taught, and that is sin to us; and the reason we sin so much is because we love sin better than we do the things that make for peace and happiness. Sometimes we see church members that would rather have confusion than peace, and the reason is they have left the example of the little child and followed in their own way. Then brethren and sisters, let us pull together at all times, and not leave our Master that has done all for us, bringing us from darkness into light. Let us watch over each other for good and not for evil. Let us love one another as He loved us, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Let us control our tongues that cause so much trouble, for the Bible teaches us that "he that offend not in words is perfect," and it takes a child of God, that has been born again, to control the evil member and keep it from hurting ourselves, or our brethren and sisters. So, may God help and bless us all together.

(Signed) A. L. PEARCE.

Rules of Decorum.

1. This Association shall open and close with prayer.
2. The members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our Union shall compose the Ochlockness Primitive Baptist Association; two-thirds of which shall form a quorum.
3. Members chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with their number in fellowship, those received by experience and baptism and otherwise, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, and dead, since our last Association.
4. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of any church.
5. This Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, who shall be chosen of the members present.
6. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order, explain and put questions; he shall have the same right of speech as any other member, provided the chair shall be filled, but shall not vote, except the body be equally divided.
7. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a fair record of the proceedings of the Association, and the minutes taken shall be read and amended, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises. The Clerk shall also keep a file of the minutes to be presented at each Association, and shall be accountable for all money deposited in the hands of the Association.
8. Any church applying by letter and delegates for admittance, which, upon examination is found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to its delegates.
9. Every church shall have a right to send two delegates to the Association and no more.
10. Every motion made and seconded shall claim the attention of the Association, except withdrawn by the person who made it, with the consent of the Association.
11. Every person who speaks must rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted when speaking except when he departs from the subject.
12. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject, without leave of the Association.
13. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of

public speech, nor reflection cast on the speaker.

14. Whenever a case is decided by a vote, there shall be no more debate on the subject.

15. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Association.

16. This Association is in favor of preaching the Gospel, the circulation of the Scripture, and the advantage of education, and recommends temperance and morality in general, but to her members in particular, notwithstanding she is opposed to all modern institutions of men, such as Missionary, Bible, Tract and Sunday School Societies together with the Baptist State Convention and Theological Schools, and such like, because their connection with the Church of God is unauthorized by the Scriptures. As such we cannot fellowship them, or admit to our church privileges any person who is therewith connected in any wise, believing all such to be speculative in their nature and fruitful sources for corrupting the church. In relation to Free Masonry we recommend to our brethren who may already be attached to that fraternity to immediately withdraw therefrom, and when brethren leave the church and join that fraternity, they are not such as follow after the things that make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another. Rom. -4-19. And as such, unless they manifest a suitable repentance and immediately withdraw therefrom, and make suitable acknowledgements, shall be rejected from the fellowship of the church.

17. We recommend to the churches composing this body to receive members that went off with the Missionaries and all other Baptists at the time of their separation from us, providing they bring satisfactory evidence of legal baptism with a suitable confession of faith, and not otherwise in disorder, and not to receive any who have been baptised by them since said separation only by experience and baptism.

18. This Association holds that if the union be broken between any of the churches and the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from them that may be deemed unsound in faith or immoral in practice until they be removed.

19. To invite visiting brethren from sister Associations, and ministers, of our faith and order, to seat with us.

20. To keep a correspondence with other Associations of the same faith and order, so that a chain of communication may be preserved throughout the denomination.

21. If any member shall break the rules of this Decorum, he shall be reprov'd by the Moderator.

22. These rules shall be read at every Association prior to entering on business.

23. The rules of this Decorum may be altered or amended at any time by a majority of three-fourths of the Association

ELDER E. R. RHODEN, Moderator.

J. W. GARDNER, Clerk.

Articles of Faith.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three in the God-head—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the words of God by inspiration, and is our rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the state he is in by nature, or of his own free will and ability.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and not finally fall away.

9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper, and washing the saint's feet, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and that the only true baptism is by immersion.

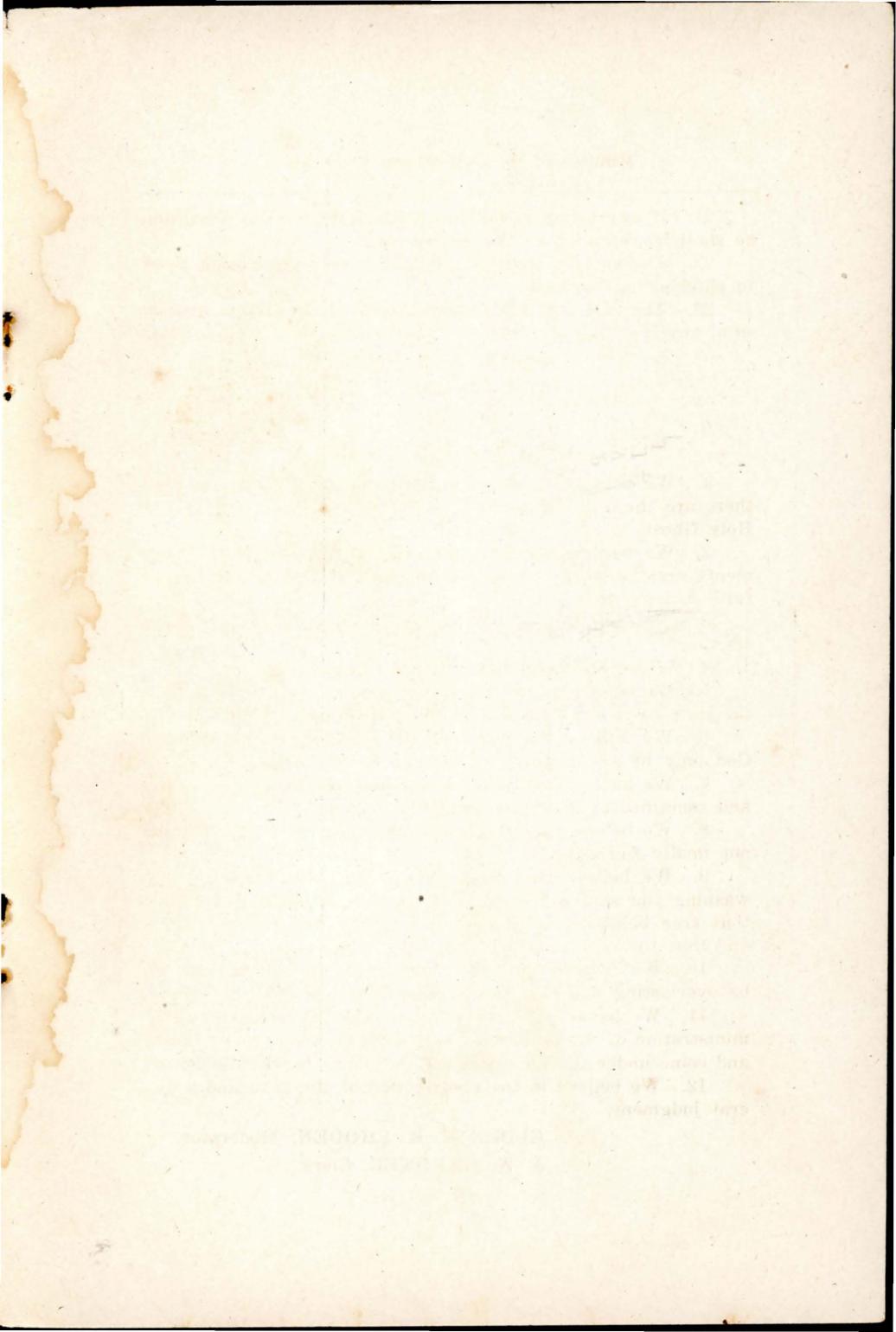
10. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous shall be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the ordinances only such as are regularly called and come under the imposition of the hands by the presbytery.

12. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

ELDER E. R. RHODEN, Moderator.

J. W. GARDNER, Clerk.



CHURCHES	CLERK AND HIS POSTOFFICE	PASTORS	NAMES OF MESSENGERS	Exper. and Bapt'm.	Received by Letter.	Rec'd Conf. Faith.	Restored.	Dismiss'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total Membership.		Contributions.	Sunday of Annual Meeting.
											Meeting Days.			
Pleasant Hill---	G. L. Taylor, Moultrie, Ga.	E. R. Rhoden, Moultrie, Ga.	G. L. Taylor, M. M. Blanton---	1	1			1	1		24	3	8.25	3d in June
Bethel -----	F. B. Willis, Pavo, Ga.	J. T. Strauder, Berlin, Ga.	W. C. Singleton, F. B. Willis-----		1					2	32	1	6.50	1st in Sept
Sardis -----	Benj. Baker, Ellenton, Ga	E. R. Rhoden, Moultrie, Ga.	G. J. Chitty, J. H. Martin---	5						1	72	4	13.50	4h in Sept
Live Oak-----	J. M. Clark, Moultrie, Ga.	E. R. Rhoden, Moultrie, Ga.	J. M. Clark, C. F. Horne --	4	1	2		2	2	2	56	1	18.50	1st in July
Harmony -----	S. N. Chapman, Barwick, Ga.	W. H. Godwin, Pavo, Ga.	F. M. Renfroe, S. N. Chapman---	3	2		1	4	2	3	59	4	8.00	4h in Aug.
Mt. Zion-----	H. M. Chastain, Moultrie, Ga.	T. J. Davis, Meigs, Ga.	W. B. Floyd, H. M. Chastain---	1					1		37	2	5.00	1st in Sept
Beth-Saide -----	I. H. Rooks, Doerun, Ga.	J. W. Williamson Pelham, Ga.	G. W. Horne I. E. Tucker---		2	6	4				43	3	11.50	3d in Sept
Pleasant Grove--	L. H. Avera, Moultrie, Ga.	W. H. Godwin, Pavo, Ga.	W. H. Godwin, J. W. Strickland---				2	1	2		50	2	12.25	2d in Sept
Mt. Pisgah-----	J. R. Lewis, Ochlocknee, Ga.	J. W. Gardner, Camila, Ga.	J. W. Gardner J. R. Lewis-----								28	1	5.00	1st in July
Bethlehem -----	L. J. Renfroe, Quitman, Ga.	J. L. Harris, Valdosta, Ga.	B. B. Olive, L. J. Renfroe---								25	2	5.00	2d in Oct.
Ty Ty-----	W. T. Dean, Ty Ty, Ga.	E. Lindsey, Ty Ty, Ga.	E. Lindsey, W. T. Dean-----					4	1	1	30	2	6.50	2d in Sept
TOTAL---				14	7	8	8	9	8	11	456		100.00	

